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LETTER DATED 3 SEPTEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

I have the pleasure to request you to kindly arrange for the attached text, containing a press release issued by the Argentine Government on the occasion of the conclusion of the negotiations on the chemical weapons convention, to be published and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Juan Archibaldo LANUS
Ambassador

Press release by the Argentine Government concerning the chemical weapons convention

"The Argentine Government expresses its satisfaction at the finalization in Geneva of the draft convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

This international treaty, negotiated over a period of two decades by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, will completely eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, which in fact were used until only recently in armed conflicts, demonstrating their destructiveness and their devastating effects on the population.

The draft convention, a complex text of more than 200 pages, provides a mechanism for the verification of the chemical industry which adequately ensures faithful compliance with this instrument, at the same time protecting the legitimate industrial and commercial interests involved.

In order to supervise and coordinate the system of inspections envisaged, an organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons will be set up, based in The Hague.

Argentina has played an active part in this negotiating process that has finally culminated today, thereby confirming its transparent and responsible policy of non-proliferation in the field of disarmament.

In September 1991, almost one year before the conclusion of these important negotiations, Argentina, together with Brazil and Chile, reaffirmed this policy through the Mendoza Agreement to which Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay also acceded, thus imparting a regional character to their joint belief in the importance of the chemical weapons convention.

Attention should also be drawn to the recent measures adopted by the Republic which contribute to the objective of non-proliferation by restricting exports of certain sensitive chemical substances (Decree No. 603/92, which adheres to the principles and aims of the convention).

The recently concluded draft convention will be transmitted by the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Argentine Republic calls upon all States to accept the draft convention and sign it as soon as possible."